

	OPERATING PROCEDURE	
	<b><i>MOBILE CRISIS UNIT</i></b>	
	Effective Date: October 1, 1986	Revised: October 1, 2000
	Approved By:  	

## BLS

**I. Preface:**

The Mobile Crisis Unit is a field response team staffed and operated by mental health professionals specially trained in crisis intervention. This team has proven to be very effective in dealing with persons who are experiencing an emotional or psychological crisis.

Since the psychotherapeutic skills of this department's personnel are limited, and because resolution of a situation by this department's units is usually restricted to transportation to a hospital's emergency department, the MCU shall be used when appropriate.

**II. Authorization:**

- A. The MCU shall be used only by selected agencies with authorization. The Fire and Rescue Department is an authorized agency.
- B. Using discretion, the incident officer may call for the MCU in appropriate situations such as those listed in section IV below.

**III. Operational hours:**

- A. The MCU is available for consultation or response from 0800 to 2400 hours every day of the week. The team is available 24 hours for CISD needs and hostage situations.
- B. If the MCU is not available or there has been a prior commitment, then personnel may contact the Woodburn Center Emergency Service for consultation and advice - this is a 24-hour service.
- C. Phone Numbers:
  - 1. MCU: **(703) 560-0224**
  - 2. Woodburn Emergency Service: **(703) 573-5679**

## ***MOBILE CRISIS UNIT (6.2.07)***

Effective Date: October 1, 1986

Revised: October 1, 2000

Page 2 of 3

### **IV. Appropriate situations:**

- A. The MCU may be requested any time personnel feel that there is an imminent risk due to mental illness and situation warrants the psychotherapeutic or crisis intervention skills of the team. Examples may include, but are not limited to:
- ✓ Psychological Crisis
  - ✓ Emotional Crisis
  - ✓ Domestic Crisis
  - ✓ Critical Stress
  - ✓ Survivor Situations (suicide, homicide, traumatic death of family or friend)
  - ✓ Threat Situations (hostage, suicide)
  - ✓ Irrational denial of needed medical care
  - ✓ Inability to provide self care
- B. The MCU is not an emergency medical team, and consequently, necessary medical care and transportation shall not be delayed while awaiting the arrival of the MCU.
- C. When possible, situations in which the use of the MCU is unclear should be discussed with the MCU team by telephone.

### **V. Procedures:**

- A. The OIC shall determine that a need for the MCU exists. To do this, an attempt shall be made to get a statement of need from persons on the scene or associated with the scene. Preferably, someone should express a desire to speak with qualified crisis intervention personnel (MCU). The MCU request shall not be a routine request based solely on type of situation. It shall be based on a specific need. The following individuals may request the MCU:
1. Clients - the best statement of need comes from the potential client or clients. These persons shall be questioned as to whether or not they desire to speak with MCU personnel.
  2. Significant Others - in the event that the client(s) is (are) incapable of providing a rational response, then an expression of need shall be obtained from relatives or significant others who feel interaction with the MCU would benefit the client(s).
  3. Other Responsible Persons - other persons on the scene (including department personnel) shall exercise judgment in determining the need for the MCU.

<b><i>MOBILE CRISIS UNIT (6.2.07)</i></b>		
Effective Date: October 1, 1986	Revised: October 1, 2000	Page <u>3</u> of <u>3</u>

- B. Unless other arrangements have been made directly with the MCU or by a decision of the responsible persons on the scene, the requesting unit shall remain on the scene until the MCU arrives.
- C. In the event that the incident scene is under the control of another agency (e.g., Police Department), the person requesting the MCU shall inform the on-site supervisor of the responsible agency that the MCU has been requested. It shall be the responsible agency's prerogative to control and facilitate the on-site activities of the MCU after they arrive on the scene.